

Recycling takes a turn for the worse



Andrea Jorawsky gets sucked into Professor Ledbelly's wastebasket during a showing of Studio Theatre's *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*.

Former U of A VP named Memorial U president

Folio Staff

University of Alberta professor and former vice-president (research), Gary Kachanoski, was named on Nov. 18 as the next president and vice-chancellor of Memorial University of Newfoundland. He will begin his term July 1, 2010.

"This is fantastic news for Gary and for Memorial University," says Carl Amrhein, provost and vice-president (academic), at the U of A. "Gary's friends and colleagues in Edmonton are so pleased for him. His tenure as vice-president (research) here was marked by tremendous growth and progress for the university, and I know that Memorial will benefit greatly from his talents. We look forward to building strong cross-Canada relationships with Gary and his team."

Kachanoski is a renowned soil scientist and is the current Bentley Research Chair (Soil, Water & Environment) at the U of A. He served as vice-president (research) from 2001–07, a period that saw tremendous growth in the university's external research funding, nearly doubling the total from \$250 million to \$490 million.

Kachanoski served as founding chair (2005–07) and driving force behind the creation of TEC Edmonton. ■



Gary Kachanoski

U of A team wins synthetic biology award

Quinn Phillips

A student group from the faculties of medicine & dentistry, science and engineering were the only Canadian team and one of just three North American squads to take home an award from the International Genetically Engineered Machine competition at MIT in Boston on Nov. 2.

"They kicked butt," said the team's supervisor Mike Ellison, a professor of biochemistry in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. iGEM, as it's known, is the premiere undergraduate synthetic biology competition. Some of the top universities in the world, like Cambridge, Stanford and Harvard, send 112 teams to compete.

"The competition is very steep," said Ellison. "It's also gotten far more professional in terms of the scientific quality over past years. It's a tough grind."

The U of A squad developed a rapid automated method for gene assembly that is 100 times faster than state-of-the-art equipment used by scientists now. While Cambridge won the grand prize, the

U of A group won one of six track prizes, called Best Foundation Advance.

"I think to most people's mind this is the most prestigious of the track prizes because it represents the best foundational advance for an enabling technology in synthetic biology, so it's a really forward-thinking prize and the competition was pretty stiff for this one," said Ellison. "We beat 21 universities outright to get it. On that list there was Berkeley, Heidelberg, MIT, University College, London, Kyoto, Paris and, most importantly, Calgary."

Their project is also getting an incredible reaction from fellow scientists.

"We actually had an invitation from a professor at MIT to return next semester and give a talk about our project and what work we will hopefully have accomplished by then," said Justin Fedor, a PhD student in biochemistry who was a part of the winning crew.

On their way home they met a professor from Ottawa who wanted to buy their invention because he could use it "right now." This machine will someday be used in




The U of A was one of just three North American squads to take home an award from the iGEM competition at MIT.

high-school and first-year university labs, says Ellison.

"We won this award because it was clear in all the judges' minds that this was a significant contribution to the field," said Ellison.

This success didn't come without hardships though. The students started the project 10 months ago and Fedor admits there were times they didn't think they'd get it finished.


"We had to troubleshoot so many different things and we'd think we'd have it solved on one front, and then the gates would open up on another front and the whole project would be in jeopardy again," said Fedor. "But we worked around it, wormed our way through and we got some positive results in the end that were presentable and eventually kicked butt." ■



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folio

Volume 47 Issue 7

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Folio's mandate is to serve as a credible
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forum for discussion and debate. *Folio* is
published 23 times per year.

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and advertisements. Views expressed in
Folio do not necessarily reflect university
policy. *Folio* contents may be printed with
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ISSN 0015-5764 Copyright 2009



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It shoots, it scoooores—the future of hockey is here

Richard Cairney

It may be a long time before we
see robots shooting pucks and
making saves in professional
hockey, but second-year mechanical
engineering students at the Uni-
versity of Alberta put some pretty
impressive players to the test as part
of a creative design course.

Called Hockey Shoot Out, the
assignment was the brainchild
of professor Pierre Mertiny, who
teaches the Design 260 course.
Working in teams of four, students
had to design and build remote-
control “robots” capable of scoring
goals and stopping shots on a scale
hockey rink.

Each team was given the same
set of materials and access to the
Department of Mechanical Engi-
neering’s shop and staff of machinist
technicians. And while the point of
the competition was to put pucks in
the net, Mertiny says the goal of the
assignment went beyond that.

“The real goal is for them to
become better engineers,” Mertiny
said. “They need to show good
teamwork and use all of the tools
available to them in the shop.”

And while the students clearly
enjoyed themselves in the competi-

tion—the event always draws a huge
crowd of students—the real fun is
in the learning.

“It’s a completely different kind
of learning,” said Angela Climenha-
ga, whose team was beaten by a
motor failure. “You could spend an
hour trying to solve a problem and
it still wouldn’t work.”

And Climenhaga knows what
she’s talking about; she estimates
she put in at least five hours of work
each week on the project—and
probably closer to 10 hours.

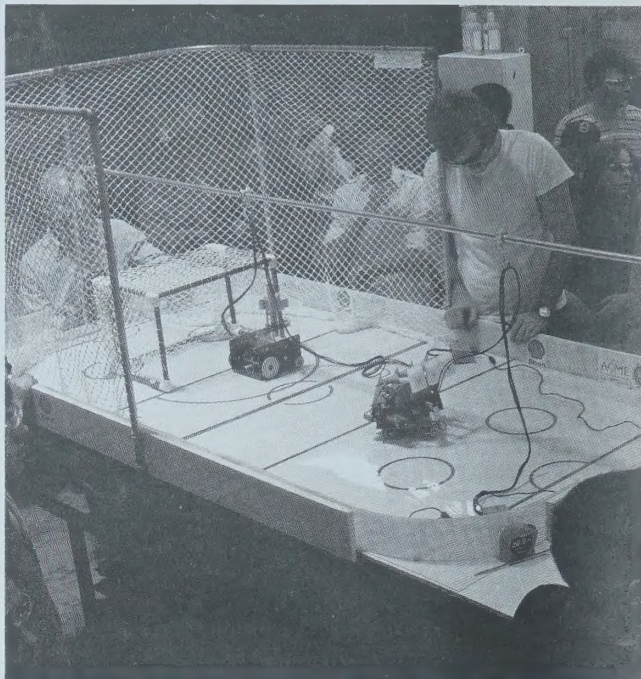
Teammate John Peters said that
one of the most important lessons
was teamwork.

“When you’re working on a
team, everyone has to be trusted to
finish what they were assigned. It
isn’t the same as when you’re doing
homework together and everyone is
working on the same project.”

“You learn how to resolve dif-
ferences of opinion, and to stick to
what is in the best interest of the
team and the project,” added team-
mate Mohammad Marmash.

For student Drew Hogg, the
assignment presented an important
learning opportunity.

“When I found out we could
use these tools I was just drool-
ing,” he said, adding that his team



Hockey Shoot Out was put on by the students of Design 260.

used the shop’s water-jet cutter to
custom manufacture parts, and its
rapid prototype machine, which
takes computer-designed parts and
machines them from plastic using a
laser light.

“Doing this hands-on work is
really important,” said Hogg. “It’s
one thing to read about things and
look at pictures in a textbook, but
being hands-on really adds another
dimension.” ■

Lymphoma patients benefit from aerobic exercise

Jane Hurly

A healthy dose of exercise
is good medicine, even
for lymphoma patients
receiving chemotherapy, says Kerry
Courneya, Canada Research Chair
in Physical Activity and Cancer in
the Faculty of Physical Education
and Recreation at the University of
Alberta.

The Healthy Exercise for Lym-
phoma Patients trial, a three-year
study led by Courneya, published
last month in the *Journal of Clinical
Oncology*, found that a regimen of
aerobic exercise training produced
significant improvements in physi-
cal functioning and overall quality
of life benefits in patients with
lymphoma.

Researchers recruited 122
patients with Hodgkin’s and non-
Hodgkin’s lymphoma, then clas-
sified participants by disease type
and treatment status, whether they
were undergoing chemotherapy
at the time or receiving no treat-
ments. Participants were randomly
assigned to an exercise program
designed to maximize cardiovascu-
lar fitness or to usual care, which did
not include an exercise component.

“The exercise program consisted
of interval training,” said Courneya.
“We had patients ride the bike at a
modest intensity, interspersed with
high-intensity bouts of exercise,
where they would go full out, exert-
ing maximum effort for a minute
or two at a time, then rest for a few
minutes before doing it again. That
type of interval training has really
been shown to maximize improve-
ments in fitness.”

Exercisers trained three times
a week for 12 weeks and were
encouraged to stay the course with
behavioural support techniques that
included perks like free parking, a
well-equipped gym, flexible exercise

schedules, variation in exercises,
follow-up phone reminders and
positive reinforcement by staff.

Lymphoma patients who
received the exercise intervention
reported significantly improved
physical functioning, overall qual-
ity of life, less fatigue, increased
happiness, less depression and an
improvement in lean body mass.

In fact, cardiovascular fitness
in the exercise group improved by
over 20 per cent. “That’s considered
a fairly large improvement over a
12-week period,” says Courneya,
adding that the group receiving
chemotherapy benefited as much as
the group that was off treatments.

“That’s important because we
know that fitness improvements
are related to improvements in how
cancer patients feel both function-
ally as well as emotionally,” said
Courneya.

Courneya also found that the
vigorous intensity exercise program
did not interfere with lymphoma
patients’ ability to complete their
chemotherapy treatments or benefit
from the treatments.

“The improvements in fitness
and in how they felt were really im-
portant. The most important find-
ing from a safety perspective is that
the patients were able to complete
their chemotherapy as scheduled,”
he says.

“In addition, we found some
suggestion that the group that did
the exercise had a better response
to their treatment. In the exercise
group we found that 46 per cent of
patients had a ‘complete response.’
That means the tumor has gone
and there’s no evidence of disease,
compared to only about 30 per cent
in the usual care group.

“The study wasn’t really de-
signed to look at that, but it’s a very
provocative finding and suggests
that perhaps this type of exercise

training program during treatment
might allow patients to respond bet-
ter to the treatments and get better
disease control.”

Initiatives like Wellspring, which
is establishing cancer patient sup-
port groups all over the country,
and organizations like the Canadian
Cancer Society, the YMCA and others
are forging ahead in develop-
ing supportive care interventions
that include exercise programs.

“Ultimately,” says Courneya, “it’s
important that we get the informa-
tion out to those groups, so we can
inform cancer patients, and help
them access this type of exercise
program.” ■



Kerry Courneya

Words to live by

Folio Staff

As the University of
Alberta celebrated its
latest fall convocation,
this round of honorary degree re-
cipients imparted these words of
wisdom to university graduands:

*“Maybe the career path you
have assumed is going to be yours;
maybe not. In the end, be the one
that best suits you. It is important
to align what you love and what
you’re best at with the future of
your life.”*

– U of A alumnus Jay Ingram,
host of CBC Radio’s popular
science program *Quirks and
Quarks* and co-host and pro-
ducer of the Discovery Chan-
nel’s *Daily Planet*, who received
an honorary doctor of science
degree on Nov. 18.

*“You are moving into a world
where your job, your friends and
your competitors will straddle
continents.”*

– Kevin Lynch, a key archi-
tect in Canada’s economic recov-
ery in the mid 1990s, and former
clerk of Canada’s Privy Council
from 2006–09, who received an
honorary doctor of laws degree
Nov. 19.

*“Giving is about more than
writing a cheque. It means getting
involved and giving one’s time. It
means living each day feeling as
though you made a positive differ-
ence in the lives of those around
you.”*

– Cathy Roozen, a respected
Edmonton business leader and
supporter of the U of A, who
received an honorary doctor of
laws degree on Nov. 19.

Pioneering spirit lives in writer-in-residence's works



Michael Brown

Perhaps the furthest thing from the minds of Japanese immigrants struggling to make a go of a mushroom farm in a small Alberta town in the 1970s is living a story that needs to be told.

However, after witnessing this often-isolated experience unfold for her parents in Nanton, then turning to literature for meaning, only to discover a distinct lack of voices retelling stories of the Canadian experience, Hiromi Goto, the University of Alberta's 2009–10 Writer-in-Residence, decided that such a story needed an author.

"It was the early '90s. I was developing my writing voice, and at the time there was a dearth of diversity in terms of characters and voices in Canadian literature," said Goto, who at the time had just graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Calgary. "*Chorus of Mushrooms* was my way of speaking to that absence, or what had

been distorted in terms of popular culture at the time."

Goto's first novel tells the story of the post-war immigrant experience of three generations of Japanese-Canadian women.

"Aside from its setting, it's not autobiographical, except that the grandmother figure is based on my grandmother," said Goto. "I used my grandmother's history as a way to develop a contemporary folk legend."

"In fiction, you don't have to wait 500 years for something to become a legend, you can do it over the course of a book."

Chorus of Mushrooms went on to garner the young author the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book in the Caribbean and Canada region, and was co-winner of the Canada-Japan Book Award. Rather than riding the accolades with a quick follow up, Goto took on the role of motherhood, although she kept sharp writing short stories.

"I've always had the sense that

writing doesn't mean you're putting words to page all the time; I have this idea that you're living as a writer," she said. "I would be going about my daily life, caring for my young children, but I would also be considering the moments of those interactions for stories as well."

"I think of it as carrying story seeds in my head, and later, when there's time, those story seeds can be put to paper, and there's a bloom."

In 2001, Goto's seeds were germinated and the result was a pair of novels: *Kappa Child*, a re-reading of *The Little House on the Prairie* narrative but through the subjectivity of a Japanese-Canadian family. It was short-listed for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Regional Book, and was awarded the James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Award. She also produced her first children's novel, *The Water of Possibility*.

"I was in my mid-20s and I would often receive this gendered, sexist response that if I was a young woman and also a mother, I would

naturally write for children, so I refused to write for children on principle," said Goto. "As my children grew older, however, we would go to the library and look for books, and again, there was this dearth of Canadian children's books that figured diverse children as the central character, particularly in forms like fantasy and adventure. Often you can find books that are ethnicity-centred, such as Chinese New Year stories were located around ethnic identity, rather than having a kid who is brown and has a big adventure."

With a shade of that same pioneering spirit that helped her parents' mushroom farm thrive, Goto employed the farmer-immigrant, work-ethic creed of "if you can't find it, then make it yourself," and wrote the kind of book she thought her kids would like to read.

"I don't plan on making my own teeth when I lose them, but writing is what I do, so if I can't find these things that I want then I might as well make a couple," said Goto. ■

Surveying the shifting landscape of literacy

Geoff McMaster

The good news is that reading among youth in Canada is not on the decline, says Margaret Mackey, a U of A expert on literacy and recipient of a Killam Annual Professorship.

"Kids are doing tons and tons of reading and writing, probably more than they ever have," says Mackey. "In Canada the statistics show that book reading is holding steady with about a third [being] avid readers, a third non-readers and a third who could be persuaded to read if they could find a book that they liked."

The professor of library science has made a career of examining literacy among young people and how it has changed with the multimedia revolution of the past two decades. For one thing, Mackey doesn't see the proliferation of new media—from video games to texting to social networking—as competition with conventional literature.

"It's quite a different picture if

you think of it as 'both/and' rather than 'either/or,'" she says, referring to a book-length study she is finishing on a group of undergraduates she queried about their interpretations after reading a book, watching a movie and playing a video game. She found the students could move between formats with ease and sophistication.

"Certainly they were very savvy in how they dealt with all these formats ... they were very much at ease experimenting at being in an imagined world." And yet she admits that ease with the various forms of expression technology allows doesn't necessarily translate to depth of understanding.

In fact, despite their multimedia agility, students in her study still felt reading was the most valuable experience. Many were "quite ferocious in their defense of the pleasures of reading," she said. "Most said that, when it comes right down to it, a good book will do more things for you than any other form so far."



Margaret Mackey

For that reason, and while she does appreciate emerging forms of literacy, Mackey considers herself a staunch champion of "extended reading," or that which calls for "continuous attention beyond the kinds of flitting and browsing that are one part of many people's daily experience."

Crossing freely between disciplinary boundaries herself—mainly education, English and library sciences—Mackey has written three

books and edited two others, one a four-volume anthology on media literacies. She has also written 15 book chapters, dozens of articles and served for 11 years as co-editor of the journal *Children's Literature in Education*.

She is described by Ann Curry, director of the School of Library and Information Studies, as "a brilliant and thoughtful analyst of qualitative data who moves adeptly from the classic children's books of the 1800s to the latest computer games when she explores media and subject preferences and the processes by which we acquire information."

Mackey's next project is a kind of excavation of her own reading history, what she calls an auto-bibliography or a "material study of the conditions in which one child achieved literacy." She has collected the picture books, novels, school textbooks, United Church Sunday-school archives, television commercials and radio programs

she consumed as a child while growing up in St. John's, Newfoundland.

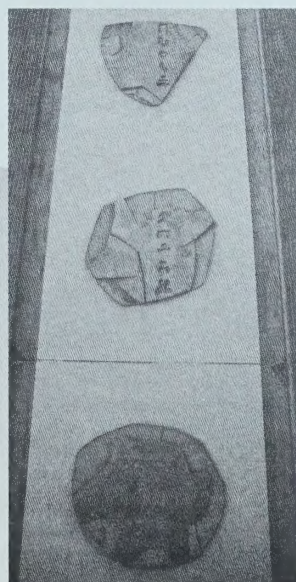
The study will be partly a challenge to the conventional reading memoir, she said, which is normally confined to books. Even in the 1950s, she argues, "people became literate in a much more complex and multi-faceted world than that. You look back and think kids just read then, but we didn't. We had television and radio, movies and records. I'm hoping to look at myself in the middle of this huge web of support structures and inputs that were ideological as well as everything else."

The Killam Annual Professorships were established in July 1991 to acknowledge the Izaak Walton and Dorothy Killam bequest. The award is granted to faculty members based on the quality of their scholarly activities such as teaching, research, publications, creative activities, presented papers, and supervision of graduate students. ■

Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Stephen Podkowka, whose name was drawn as part of *Folio's* Nov. 13 "Are You a Winner?" contest, after he correctly identified the photo as that of the U of A's heating plant smokestacks just west of 115 street, northeast of the Cross Cancer building. For his effort, Podkowka has won the always-fashionable Butterdome butterdosh.

To celebrate last-minute shopping, we continue our countdown to Christmas by giving away another Butterdome butterdosh. To win, simply identify where on campus the object of the picture is located. Email your correct answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Friday, Dec. 4, and you will be entered into the draw. ■



Ann Dawrant

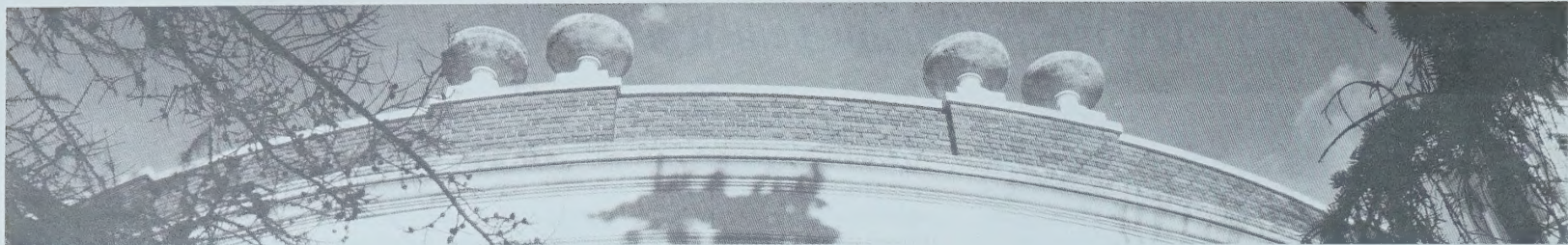


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the open door

Debra Pozega Osburn
Interim vice-president (external relations)

A couple of years ago, I had the privilege of sitting in on a discussion led by our Provost, Carl Amrhein, that outlined the importance of institutional partnerships.

The discussion was before a meeting of members of the Conference Board of Canada, and it included executive leadership from Capital Health (now a part of Alberta Health Services), as an example of just one of hundreds of jointly beneficial partnerships the University of Alberta has formulated over the past several decades.

During the discussion, a number of impressive facts were put forward about the University of Alberta and its partnerships. Among them:

- The University of Alberta has more than 750 public and private partners that in recent years have invested more than \$480 million annually U of A research.
- We have forged industry part-

nerships by the hundreds in recent years; in 2006–07, for example, more than 550 industry partners in research accounted for some \$40.6 million in investment. That included \$35.6 million from Canadian companies, and \$5 million from foreign sources.

- During that same time period, our government partnerships (with more than 26 Alberta government offices and programs) totaled \$136,395,000.

Those dollar figures are important, but they don't even begin to capture the full scope of our partnerships, whose outcomes range from such community events as the Festival of Ideas and the Little Big Run to high-impact initiatives such as the Edmonton Clinic.

I thought about this presentation last week, as I joined leadership from the City of Edmonton, the City of Leduc, and other nearby municipalities, as well as from advocacy organizations, on a "trade mission" to Houston, Texas, a city with similar areas of economic focus and chal-

lenge, to explore potential mutually beneficial partnerships on which to build new success stories in the future.

Houston, of course, benefits from the presence of several post-secondary institutions, and those institutions were included in the long set of meetings and discussions. At all times, the bottom line in my mind was: Is there a shared vision of excellence? Because that, I think, is the critical characteristic of partnerships at the modern university, especially one as diverse and rich as the University of Alberta in the 21st century.

We have seen evidence of new, clearly beneficial and exciting partnerships several times in recent months; for example, the new Helmholtz Initiative. Other such high-profile partnerships are currently in the making, and will likely be announced soon.

And of course, throughout the fabric of our diverse institution, we're engaged at many points—through discussions with peer faculty around the world, various contacts with our deans and institute directors, administrative discussions and many others—which will result in the kinds of partnerships from which great things grow, great discoveries emerge, and great impact is felt. ■

U of A H1N1 clinics set for Dec 2–4

Folio Staff

On-campus H1N1 flu vaccination clinics will be held next week for all students and staff, following word from Alberta Health Services that the university will be provided a supply of the H1N1 vaccine.

The University Health Centre, working closely with the Faculty of Nursing, Human Resource Services and the Students' Union, will hold a vaccination "blitz" over three days—Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (Dec 2, 3, 4)—in the alumni room in SUB. Clinic times are 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. on each of the three days.

The university will receive two variants of the vaccine with which to immunize the campus community. As a result, healthy individuals, pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals will all have access to the H1N1 vaccine.

The clinics will be open only to staff and students but not to family members because of the set amount of vaccine the university is receiving. Public clinics run by Alberta Health Services are again open across Edmonton and available to every Alberta resident. Any family member of staff and students can access the H1N1 flu shot that way.

Staff and students will be asked to identify themselves (for example,

with their ONEcard or equivalent) before receiving the vaccination, as well as providing an Alberta health care number (or the equivalent).

To help facilitate the efficient operation of the three-day vaccination blitz, please try to avoid either choosing to show up first thing on the first day, or leaving it to the last day. You can also help speed things up by ensuring you bring the proper documentation, as above, and if possible wearing short sleeved clothing.

Please note that the university's clinics next week will only administer the H1N1 flu vaccination, not the vaccination for seasonal flu. Administering both shots at the same time, while possible, creates logistical challenges and strain on the resources the university has to administer blitz vaccination clinics. Those individuals seeking the seasonal flu shot are invited to attend the University Health Centre (2-200 SUB) where the seasonal shot is currently available to all staff and students.

For more information about H1N1, including how to help protect yourself and your family, information regarding the campus H1N1 influenza clinics and links to public flu clinics in the Edmonton area, please visit www.H1N1.ualberta.ca ■

A little generosity goes a long way

Angel Cousineau

The criteria for U of A scholarships and bursaries vary widely, but the generosity of those who support these funds remains constant.

Thousands of U of A students receive scholarships and bursaries each year, a portion of which would not be possible without the support of the university's faculty and staff. Andrew Leitch, manager, communications and project planning, Office of Risk Management Services at the U of A, says it is an easy decision to support students. He remembers the financial woes of being a student, and even now he believes he has never been more stressed about money than when he was a university student.

"The U of A is a great community to be a part of," said Leitch, "and anything I can do to help remove stress from a student seems like the right thing to do."

Tammy Morris, a second-year medical student, is grateful for Leitch's and others' generosity. She relies on student awards to avoid what could be a crippling debt. Last year, Morris was one of 580 students who received an award from

the Undergraduate Scholarships and Bursaries Fund, supported in part by many staff and faculty.

"Being in debt is so stressful and always in the back of your mind," said Morris, adding that, although she does everything possible to keep her costs down, without student awards she could easily find herself over \$100,000 in debt by the time she graduates.

"I didn't know that scholarships could come from people who give monthly," said Morris. "If people are giving this way, it's incredible."

Shortly after starting at the U of A nearly 10 years ago, Leitch signed up to have a monthly donation to the Undergraduate Scholarships and Bursaries Fund taken directly off his pay cheque. It was quick, simple and easy.

"If we all do a little something for the benefit of others, it makes life better for everyone," said Leitch.

At first glance, \$10 or \$20 a month may not seem like much, but it quickly adds up. It also goes a long way in removing barriers for students like Morris who are committed to their academic careers, and will ultimately keep communities thriving and healthy.

"The difference to a student is



Andrew Leitch is one of many U of A employees who has signed up to make monthly donations to the Undergraduate Scholarships and Bursaries Fund.

amazing," said Morris.

Monthly payroll donations can be made online at www.giving.ualberta.ca or by calling 780-492-4948. ■

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Bringing business ethics back, one class at a time

Jamie Hanlon

Students in Marketing 488 are mad as hell and they're not going to take it anymore. Ponzi schemes, bonuses paid to executives of bailed-out companies and candy manufacturers profiting from blood chocolates are but a few ethical lapses that have led them to an important and novel decision: they want to raise peoples' awareness of the importance of ethics and integrity in business. The idea started as a discussion at the class level that has led them to a project that includes hosting an ethics awareness day and developing an oath of integrity they hope will make its way to classrooms and boardrooms everywhere.

The students, 34 in all, volun-

tarily took the pledge on Nov. 26 as part of their Business Ethics Awareness Day. Students will also have displays on various ethical issues in business and marketing. The idea for a pledge germinated from the one of the first discussions marketing professor Sharon Ryan had with them on the idea of moral responsibility: a person has a level of accountability for actions that cause harm to others, directly or indirectly, no matter how far removed they are from the situation. It could be said that the lesson was bittersweet. "I brought in some chocolate and was passing them around. As I was explaining to the students the facts of chocolate slavery, you could hear the sound of the chocolate wrappers being opened diminishing

into silence," said Ryan. Ryan noted that, as the semester continued, the students' awareness grew into a desire to affect change. It was from this awakening awareness that the idea of an ethics pledge for business students was formed. It is not a new idea; the University of Western Ontario's Ivey School has had one since 2004, and Harvard recently created an MBA oath. What is different—and quite promising—is that the pledge is student-driven, and one they want to share with decision-makers in all areas of business and at all levels. "A lot of people hide behind the cloak of the corporation, thinking they're not responsible and that, if they make a mistake, nobody's going to point the finger at them. This pledge makes them think very



Sharon Ryan's Marketing 488 created and took an oath of integrity.

deeply about their direct responsibility in their decisions." By using viral marketing strategies, they are hoping that their pledge will spread and be taken by businesses and schools around the world. "We believe it's all about a lack of education and we have the power through viral marketing to educate people." ■

Native studies scholar skewers Olympic myth of inclusion

Geoff McMaster

In addition to the thousands of athletes competing at the Vancouver Olympics this winter, Canadian academics are also flexing their intellectual muscle, offering a more critical take on the world's biggest sporting event. In a series of educational podcasts sponsored by Vancouver 2010, 24 scholars from universities across the country examine controversial issues surrounding the Winter Olympic Games. Representing the U of A, native studies and physical education professor Janice Forsyth takes a hard-hitting look at the Olympic "illusion" of Aboriginal inclusion.

"In spite of the increased visibility of Aboriginal people at these Games, the power relations sustaining historic inequities between Olympic organizers and Aboriginal people have remained largely unchanged," says Forsyth in her podcast, which ran on the Olympic website Nov. 17.

"Indeed, recent accounts from Vancouver 2010 suggest the present day arrangement for Aboriginal people has actually worsened."

Forsyth, a former track athlete, argues that Vancouver should be commended for efforts to ensure unprecedented involvement of Aboriginal people in all aspects of the Olympics, from encouraging native sporting traditions to promoting indigenous knowledge in environmental management, to encouraging access to sports participation. But ultimately this façade of inclusion, meant to impress the rest of the world with Canada's cultural harmony, operates as a smokescreen, says Forsyth, obscuring the fact that "the interests of local and marginalized groups are too often disparaged and brushed aside."

She points out that only a small number of countries, including Canada, have refused to sign the UN Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Given this reluctance, she asks, "is it not a little hypocritical to position the Olympics as a display of harmonious relationships between Aboriginal cultures and Canada's dominant culture?"

Lubicon of Northern Alberta tried to raise public awareness of their grievances over land claims ignored by the federal government for more than 50 years. The Lubicon asked museums around the world to boycott an Olympic exhibit of Aboriginal artifacts called The Spirit Sings, partly because Shell Canada was a co-sponsor, the very company that had played a leading role in the destruction of the Lubicon's traditional land base. When they tried to be heard, says Forsyth, "they were accused by the media of trying to 'spoil Calgary's show.'" "The choreography behind this Olympic dance, as in Games past, is a monumental effort. But there is nothing new about Aboriginal involvement in the 2010 Games," argues Forsyth in her podcast. "And it is possible that the intensive focus on Aboriginal inclusion in the hosting of the Games has made things worse." The Intellectual Muscle series is a collaborative venture between Vancouver 2010, the Globe and Mail and the University of British Columbia. ■

Genealogical gem has Google calling

Michael Davies-Venn

It started six years ago as simply a gem of an idea, but it has now become a source of provincial pride, catching the attention of Internet search-engine giant Google. Now the Peel's Prairie Provinces website has also been recognized at home with the 2009 Historical Recognition Award from the City of Edmonton. Named after the former U of A chief librarian, Bruce Peel, the site allows scholars, students and researchers of all types to explore western Canadian history and the culture of the Canadian prairies. According to Ernie Ingles, U of A vice-provost and chief librarian, the site is based on an original bibliography of Western Canada called Peel's bibliography of the Canadian Prairies to 1953. Ingles and U of A associate director of libraries, Merrill Distad, have updated the third edition, the most extensive work of its kind. "The database that underpins this digital library is the most comprehensive listing of publications that relate to western Canada that exists," Ingles said. "This is a tremendous resource, and truly a national

resource, because the history of the three western provinces is very much intertwined with the history of the country." The site contains some 7,200 digitized titles and over 10,000 newspapers (the specific component that Google has expressed interest in by adding those resources to its universal newspaper index). It also offers useful Internet search tools that will help anyone do research on a wide range of topics, from family histories to the development of specific communities. There are titles in French, Ukrainian, and numerous other languages. Making the growing catalogue free to anyone who wants to use it keeps with a U of A tradition that dates back more than 100 years, said Ingles, part of a culture dedicated to opening the minds of Albertans and others from across the country and around the world. "If Albertans want to know more about who they are—and in some depth—this is the place to come to," said Ingles. "And as we get more and more local newspapers online, people can begin to learn the history of their towns, hamlets or regions." ■

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Researcher wants to tip the scales for northern lizard

Bev Betkowski

Armed with eyelash glue, a walking stick and a faithful horse, University of Alberta researcher Krista Fink is hoping to help Canada's most northern lizard get off the species-at-risk list.

With the help of a \$68,000 grant from Parks Canada, Fink, under the supervision of renewable resources professor Scott Nielsen and adjunct professor Shelley Pruss, is spending two years exploring the barren grassland habitat of the greater short-horned lizard, a mouse-sized, scaly specimen found in parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan and could number as few as 2,500.

While the lizard is also found in Mexico and parts of the western United States, there is a concern it could die out in Canada, so it was listed as a species at risk in 2007 under the federal government's Species at Risk Act.

"Most people may not realize that we have lizards this far north, but the greater short-horned speci-

men is able to withstand our harsh winters because it hibernates," Fink said. The lizard, which resembles a miniature dinosaur, is also unique because, unlike most other species of its kind that hatch, it gives birth to live young.

Fink, a master's student in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, is swinging a leg over her horse, Buck, and taking to the remote barren hills of Grasslands National Park in Saskatchewan to observe the lizards in their natural habitat.

Aiming to find ways to preserve their delicate ecosystems, Fink has started videotaping the lizards and using eyelash glue to attach transmitters to their backs to track their movements. "This will help us better understand their habitat needs."

To find the animals, she'll also probe the ground with her walking stick, hoping to catch a glimpse of the creatures, which blend into their gray and brown surroundings to the point of invisibility.

"It helps me spot the lizards



The greater short-horned lizard could number as few as 2,500.

when they move," Fink said, then added: "I hope I don't hit any rattlesnakes in the process."

By recording their movements, Fink wants to find out where they are choosing to live, and why.

"This will help identify their critical habitat needs and document their population sizes to better manage their population recovery."

Fink and Nielsen hypothesize that energy development, road construction and certain livestock

grazing practices could be possible threats to the lizards' habitat. Because they are living in such small, fragmented populations, they are especially vulnerable to any kind of change, Nielsen noted. "The smaller the population, the bigger the impact. To lose these lizards would be especially disturbing, because they are so rare in Canada."

At the end of the study, which began last summer, Fink hopes to have some recommendations for

Parks Canada on how to protect and preserve home ground for the lizards, which have recently become a tourist attraction in the Grasslands National Park.

"They are quite charismatic," added Fink, who has gotten to know the lizards well over the course of her project. "Each lizard has a distinct expression; some look like they are frowning, others look as if they are grinning. It adds a lot of imagined personality to the species." ■

Mapping the good life

Michael Brown

The road to happiness isn't always found in the figurative map of sound decision-making, good people and helpfulness. Sometimes happiness is found on an actual map, or in the case of Bonnie Gallinger, amidst half a million maps.

Gallinger, who received a University of Alberta's 2009 Annual Support Staff Recognition Award in an award ceremony Nov. 24, has charted her dream job as a map assistant/public service associate with the William C. Wonders Map Collection in the Cameron Library.

After graduating from the U of A with a master's degree in geology in 1991, where she researched the impact human disturbances such as pipelines and seismic lines have on permafrost, Gallinger began her career working as a sessional instructor teaching geology wherever she could get a gig, whether at a college in Edmonton or back home in British Columbia.

staff spotlight

"I decided I wanted to work at the university because of my interest in academics," said Gallinger. "I like what goes on at this university—I like the school's collegial nature."

Having poured over many a map when the collection was part of the geology department, Gallinger says when the map job came up in 2000 it was serendipity at work. When the powers-that-be split her time between cataloging and working the reference desk, it was true love.

"I didn't know I would have so much time with the reference desk, and that was just a bonus to me," said Gallinger. "I love the interaction with the students and the researchers, and I am extremely curious about everything. When people

come up, I like helping them find the information they need.

"It's kind of like teaching, but one on one."

Currently, Gallinger, a self-proclaimed Scotophile (she is fanatical about Scotland) and map collector in her own right, is processing tens of thousands of maps donated by Ron Whistance-Smith, the map collection's former curator. Whistance-Smith was instrumental in the building the university's collection, which already claims the largest academic map collection in Canada—more than 500,000 maps and another 800,000 air photos.

Having a map for any occasion—from topographic and geographic maps of Alberta to a human history map of Budapest, Hungary, pulled

out of the Nuremberg Chronicle that dates back to 1493—means Gallinger has had a request for every possible map use and then some.

"I was helping someone for at least an hour trying to find a specific map that they had described, but they wouldn't tell me what it was for," remembered Gallinger. "Eventually it turned out she was looking for potential landing sites for the mother ship. She was totally serious about it. I tried to maintain my composure because we get people who are looking for absolutely everything."

Whether it's her unending patience or insatiable curiosity, Gallinger says she doesn't know why she won the award, only that no matter whom she is dealing with and what their query is, they get her full effort.

"I remember being on the other side," she said. "Anything I can do to assist them and make it easier I will do, which sometimes means taking the time to teach people to do it themselves." ■



Bonnie Gallinger, of the William C. Wonders Map Collection, won the 2009 Annual Support Staff Recognition Award.

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Beaming the U of A into high-school classrooms

Michael Davies-Venn

The University of Alberta has begun a lecture series designed to provide answers for some of the key questions of life to perhaps the most demanding of learners: Alberta's high-school students.

The free hour-long lectures, which provide high-school students the forum to ask questions of U of A researchers, are open to all schools in the province. Jonathan Schaeffer, U of A vice-provost and associate vice-president (information technology) said the idea came to him during a quiet moment while attending one of the prime minis-

ters conversation series, which were part of the university's centenary celebrations.

"It was fascinating listening to a former prime minister speak, but I remember looking around the room and it was all adults," Schaeffer recalled. "I started thinking, 'what kind of lectures are we giving to the young people, to the students?' That got me thinking that there has to be a good way to reach the students."

Schaeffer says the lecture series helps meet the needs of teachers who wanted to see a stronger U of A presence in their classrooms. He says the series also helps enhance the ideas behind Campus Alberta, the key framework established in

2002 within which Albertans are able to pursue and achieve lifelong learning goals.

"What we want to do is promote the university and be true to the spirit of Campus Alberta," said Schaeffer. "We want to engage students and excite them. If we can make a difference by doing this to some student's career, it makes it all worthwhile."

So far more than 50 U of A researchers have signed up, although only 16 will take part in the ongoing inaugural lecture series. The next talk is on Dec. 1, when U of A researchers Mike Carbonaro and Bob Ritter talk about robotics. ■

Lessons from Frank Slide inspire new radar system

Brian Murphy

A University of Alberta researcher has turned the site of a southern Alberta rockslide tragedy into the proving ground for new equipment meant to avert such a disaster in the future.

In the spring of 1903, the east face of Turtle Mountain, a huge slab of rock estimated to weigh 90 million tons, let go without warning, burying the Crownest Pass mining town of Frank.

When the dust cleared, boulders from Turtle Mountain covered the town and three square kilometres of the valley beyond.

Ninety people were killed.

Civil engineering professor Derek Martin knows all the science behind rock slides, but he's also adopted a simple belief about mountains. "Nature never likes steep slopes," said Martin. "It likes things flat, and that's why, sooner or later, mountains will come down."

Martin and a team from the Alberta Geological Survey have been monitoring the slightest movements of Turtle Mountain for six years. But the gauges and satellite GPS monitoring systems set up to measure the growth of cracks and fissures in giant rock faces require people to go up the mountain to set reference points so movement can be detected. Martin says that's risky, time consuming, expensive and doesn't necessarily give researchers a clear overall picture of the mountain's stability.

Instead, Martin says the solution may lie with an Italian-made radar system.

"This device sits at the bottom of the mountain," said Martin of the \$250,000 piece of equipment that was set up in mid September. "It sits on a two-metre-long track and moves back and forth scanning the eastern face of Turtle Mountain."

Since 2003, when monitoring of Turtle Mountain began, Martin says some movement on the east face has

been detected, albeit just millimetres a year. Martin and engineers with the Alberta's Geologic Survey are hoping the new radar system will provide the same reliable data and replace all the gauges currently hammered into the mountain face. He says this would reduce both the risks and costs for maintaining the gear.

"The weather up there takes its toll on equipment," said Martin. "And you'd be surprised at the damage little varmints can do nibbling on wires."

Martin says he hopes the radar system will have proven its reliability on Turtle Mountain by spring.

"The big unknown for us is how the mountain climate might affect the radar equipment," said Martin. Mountain weather includes extremes in temperature, rapid shifts in humidity, and even the dust kicked up by high winds that could challenge the radar's readings.

Martin would like to try the radar out on a worrisome rock face above a rail line in British Columbia



This \$250,000 radar system monitors the slippery eastern slope of Turtle Mountain.

and says there's no reason to think the system couldn't be used to monitor dams and even the earthen walls of tailings ponds used by resource industries.

For the time being, the radar equipment at Turtle Mountain will keep up its slow, back-and-forth tracking of the east face and its five million cubic metres of rock that observers fear will someday come crashing down.

"It's just a matter of time," said Martin. "But time is a very elusive thing when you're dealing with nature."

Battle of the Blades benefits spinal-cord injury

Quinn Phillips

Medical researchers at the University of Alberta are doing triple lutes after learning they will receive a \$100,000 donation as the result of a former Edmonton Oiler and an Olympic figure skater winning the CBC's Battle of the Blades.

Craig Simpson and Jamie Salé received the most votes and took home the grand prize Nov. 16 in the finale of the CBC hit, which saw retired hockey players paired with figure skaters in the elimination-style reality series. The money goes to their charity of choice, which is the northern Alberta Spinal Cord Injury Treatment Centre Society, a charity Simpson has

been involved with for 21 years and a group committed to raising money to recruit a world leader in spinal-cord research to the U of A.

Louise Miller is the director of the society, and she was a driving force behind this win.

"I've accosted people in elevators I don't even know; anywhere I have gone I have spoken to people about voting. I bribed my class with promotional pens; I have done everything humanly possible," said Miller, who, along with her friends, managed to vote 10,000 times.

The society has raised \$600,000 of the \$1.5 million required to establish an endowed chair in spinal-cord research at the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry.

"This new chair will ensure the U of A remains in the forefront of finding better treatments for spinal-cord injury," said Philip Baker, dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. "An endowed research chair will also attract students and other world-class experts in the field,

allowing us to build on an already successful program."

Simpson and Salé were one of three pairs in the final competing for the top prize. The other finalists were Claude Lemieux and Shae-Lynn Bourne, and Stéphane Richer, who was paired with Marie-France Dubreuil. The finale episode had a lot of people at the university on the edge of their seats, including Mushahwar.

Donations are still needed to help establish the endowed chair position and can be made through the development office in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at 780-492-9051.



Craig Simpson and Jamie Salé donated their Battle of the Blades winnings to U of A spinal-cord research.

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Animal-science road show grabs president's award

Michael Brown

There's A Heifer in Your Tank now has a trophy on its mantle.

The program, whose slogan is "the science answers to quirky questions you never knew you had about animal agricultural," is the recipient of the 2009 President's Achievement Award for Overall Achievement in support of the university's vision and mandate, *Dare to Discover*.

"Over the past few years this venture has grown to include many creative, engaging and community building opportunities, which were very well profiled in the nomination," said President Indira Samarasekera. "In reviewing submissions, the selection committee recognized the success of the program in developing an innovative, energetic and interactive teaching and learning experience that engages people of all ages; not only within the university community,

but also in the community at large."

The program, which is externally funded by the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency, grew out of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences' Building Community class six years ago, which had a focus on educating university students about agriculture through inquiry while creating agricultural awareness in the broader community.

Frank Robinson, vice-provost and dean of students, said the program began as a straight-up powerpoint presentation put on by first-year ALES students on an agriculture-related topic with a simple "encouragement to be creative."

"They went crazy," said Robinson. "It became music and drama by the second iteration. We never thought of it as a funny thing, the students have taken it and run with it. The creativity is unending."

The powerpoint presentations

quickly dissolved into skits and musical acts worthy of a country fair.

"As far as the questions are concerned, the quirkiest the better," said Robinson. "We want them to be remembered as more than a boring old animal-science presentation."

As much as possible, the public, the families of the presenters, for example, is invited to take in the show. Earlier this year, the winter semester of the class took its act on the road, making stops in Westlock, Vegreville and Camrose. This semester, the groups made movies, which made their big-screen debut Nov. 19 in a red-carpet affair in the Engineering Teaching and Learning Centre.

"Quite often the public sees the U of A as a high-level thing, but we're trying to make the show relevant for the families of students who attend the university, to bring the public closer to the U of A so the school is seen as something that is welcoming and engaging," said



The inner workings of intestines is just one of the topics addressed at the topical *There's A Heifer in Your Tank* science production.

Robinson.

That engagement is extended beyond faculty lines as, six years on, the building community class has been swamped by ALES interlopers, representing faculties from business

and arts to science and nursing.

"We call it 'warming up the first years,' where we have students working in groups to rely on each other to be creative," said Robinson. "We strongly encourage diversity." ■

Native studies program recognized for promoting best practices in Aboriginal governance

Ileiren Poon

A new program offered by the Faculty of Native Studies focusing on governance for Aboriginal communities has been awarded the University of Alberta's 2009 President's Achievement Award for connecting communities.

The Certificate in Aboriginal Governance & Partnership program is aimed at teaching best practices for negotiation and partnership between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups. The one-term course teaches students about leadership, government, management and administration, and business growth for First Nations, Métis and Inuit organizations and their non-

Aboriginal counterparts.

"The success of the program in engaging students, alumni, government, the City of Edmonton, various Aboriginal organizations and countless other stakeholders in the research and subsequent development of the program was clearly evident in the team submission," said President Indira Samarasekera, offering her congratulations to members of the program. "It provides a solid model for one of our four cornerstones, connecting communities."

Edward Allen, chief operating officer of the National Centre for First Nations Governance in Ottawa, was on hand to sign a memorandum of understanding with the university

in support of the program when it was launched in 2008.

"This is important work," he said at the time. "This is how we make First Nations' education relevant to First Nations communities: by going to the community, by looking at how the curriculum is taught and developed, and ultimately changing the perspective of what education means."

The program was created with the support of donors and key partners within the university community, said Ellen Bielawski, dean of the Faculty of Native Studies.

"Our partners in the U of A School of Business are a key part of this program because we think of governance as being much broader

than political leadership. We really feel that we need to be working on partnerships in all the areas of financial growth and management," she said.

The new program is part of a much larger initiative on behalf of the entire university, said U of A provost and vice-president (academic) Carl Amrhein.

"At its best, a university like ours creates intellectual space to consider and to solve some of the most difficult problems that humanity faces," he said at the program's launch. "In our time and in our country, the question of inequity between Aboriginal people and other Canadians—economic, educational and health inequalities—is one of

the most challenging situations we face.

"We face similar challenges within our university, but we are determined that, by working appropriately and respectfully with Aboriginal people, these partnerships will become, must become, essential and part of the very fabric of this institution."

Students who successfully complete the course receive a certificate in addition to their respective degrees. Graduates of the certificate program can apply their skills to any management aspect of Aboriginal relations, including health care, economic development, education, justice and community policing, natural resources and treaty negotiations. ■

TEC Edmonton feeling the VibeDx

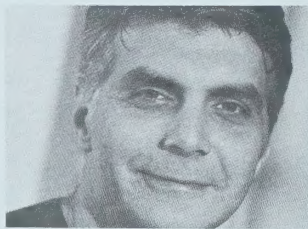
Nadia Anderson

In the next few months, Folio will examine one of the cornerstones of the university's *Dare to Discover* vision, connecting communities, by examining the role TEC Edmonton plays in advancing mutual goals by fostering partnerships with business and industry.

A potential University of Alberta spinoff company, VibeDx, has developed a technology to help back pain sufferers. Greg Kawchuk, professor of physical therapy and inventor of the VibeDx technology, has been working with TEC Edmonton to create the company.

VibeDx is a new technology for diagnosis of spinal abnormalities, injuries and pathologies that hold the promise to improve long-term outcomes and quality of life for millions of back pain sufferers.

From technology transfer to business planning, Kawchuk says he has been supported by the TEC Edmonton team in the commercialization process. Kawchuk has especially appreciated the leadership that Cameron Schuler, TEC Edmonton Libin Executive-in-Resi-



Greg Kawchuk

dence, has brought to the table.

"Cameron is fully engaged and excited by the product. His insight is tremendously wide," said Kawchuk. "He is always on top of things. He is ahead of us, leading the way."

TEC Edmonton executives-in-residence are the veteran business professionals on TEC Edmonton's team. These individuals have been successful in starting and growing companies, and they have the industry expertise and connections to help evaluate and advise entrepreneurs.

Kawchuk believes the reason VibeDx has the degree of business success it does is due to the help he has received from TEC Edmonton. Schuler's vast business knowledge, experience and contacts—including the boards he sits on—as well as the

support of the TEC Edmonton team, have all been important elements in the process.

Stephanie Minnema, a TEC Edmonton market analyst, says by working with TEC Edmonton's technology transfer experts and market analysts, VibeDx has had its intellectual property protected, market researched, and the development of its business plan is underway.

"I'm very excited about the potential of VibeDx and thrilled that I've been able to build marketing, financing and regulatory roadmaps to help strategize their path to market," said Minnema.

Through the financing strategy and TEC Edmonton's grant advice, VibeDx has applied for and received a \$24,900 grant from Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research.

"You couldn't ask for a better team to open up doors. There isn't a place where Cameron doesn't have a contact to get us what we need," Kawchuk said. "We are living a real plan right now with goals and timelines."

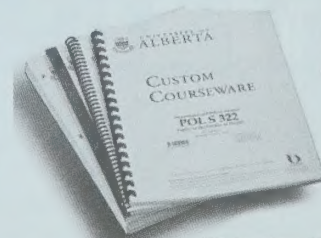
"At the outset of our partnership, Greg and I defined roles and responsibilities," said Schuler about the project's progression. "The in-

tersection of his scientific expertise as a Canada research chair and my business background has worked extremely well. I have had many business partnerships and I couldn't ask for a better experience."

Currently Kawchuk is working with design engineers to develop a prototype of the technology that is market ready.

"We have a good team. It's been wonderful," Kawchuk said. ■

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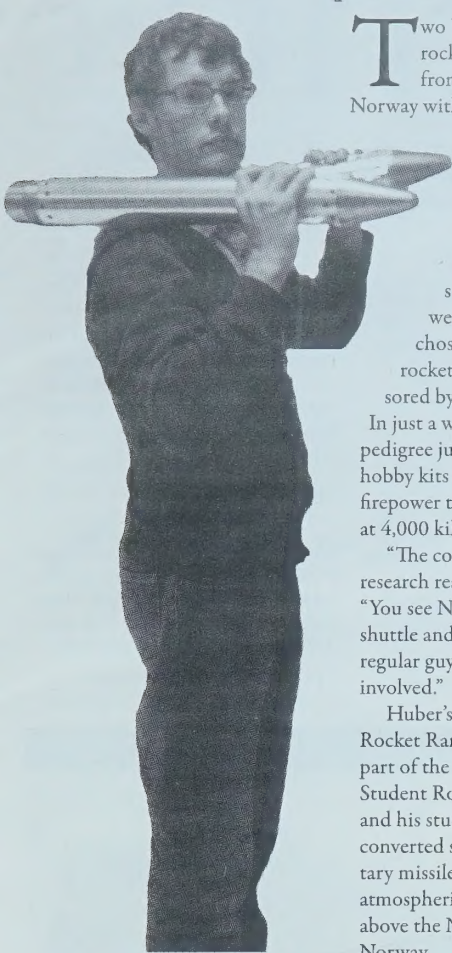
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Rocket program in Norway a blast

by Brian Murphy



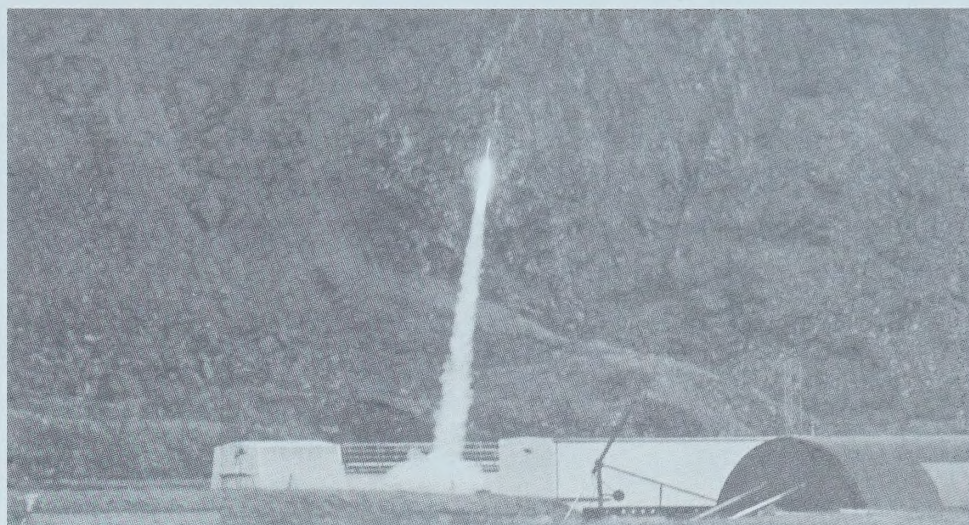
James Huber

Two University of Alberta rocketeers have returned from a launch pad in Norway with a new mission: to make their dreams of careers in space sciences come true. James Huber, a third-year mechanical engineering student, was one of four western Canadian students chosen for a week-long rocket design course sponsored by the University of Oslo. In just a week, Huber's rocketry pedigree jumped from backyard hobby kits to a metre-long tube of firepower that left the launch pad at 4,000 kilometres an hour.

"The course made space research real for me," said Huber. "You see NASA launch the space shuttle and now I know just a regular guy from Alberta can get involved."

Huber's trip to the Andoya Rocket Range in Norway was part of the new Canada-Norway Student Rocket Program. Huber and his student teammates used a converted surface-to-ground military missile to carry half-a-dozen atmospheric sensors 10,000 metres above the North Sea's coastline of Norway.

"I didn't actually see the



The week-long rocket design course at the Andoya Rocket Range in Norway was part of the new Canada-Norway Student Rocket Program.

launch," said Huber. "I was steering a manual antenna so we could track the rocket's flight." But the mission was flawless. "The rocket reached altitude and the payload sensors all worked perfectly."

One of those sensors was of particular interest to the other U of A student in Norway. Dave Miles, a graduate student in physics, wasn't part of the CaNoRoc camp. He was there on a special mission: to test a miniaturized atmospheric sensor of his own design under the rigours of a real rocket launch. "I'm working on designing an exceed-

ingly small magnetic field sensor," said Miles.

Space agencies keep a close eye on Earth's magnetic field. Wild fluctuations can have serious effects, such as power blackouts, and temporary loss of communications and GPS services. Miles' goal for his sensor is to have it placed on the next generation of Earth monitoring satellites. "The Norway trip was very useful because the Andoya facility could easily launch the rockets required for small satellite packages."

In February the U of A will host

a delegation from the University of Oslo to talk about going beyond the one-week rocket program at Andoya to full-fledged, semester-long student exchanges between the universities. Miles says there's a very exciting long-term goal of the proposed program.

"Eventually students from this exchange could devise and launch a research-rocket program of their own," said Miles. "We could launch from Andoya with a rocket that goes to an altitude of 500 kilometres and the students could publish the results of their research." ■

Grad student's AIDS research reveals a lack of family-planning programs in Uganda

Carmen Leibel

University of Alberta graduate student Jennifer Heys wants to make her message clear: there needs to be more education in Ugandan communities about contraception.

Heys, who studied at the School of Public Health, spent six months interviewing 421 people living in rural and semi-urban communities in Uganda. Of that group, 199 were HIV positive. Heys' research was published this month in a special supplement of the journal, *AIDS*.

Heys' study was to find out if there was a difference between HIV-positive and HIV-negative individuals in regard to their desire to have more children. She found that those who were HIV positive were more likely to want to stop having children.

"The odds of wanting to stop child bearing were 6.25 times greater compared to those who were HIV negative."

While she was encouraged by these results, Heys says the problem is a lack of education about contraception as most of the people

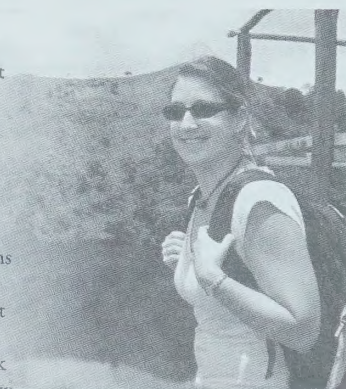
she spoke with were not using what is called "dual protection." This is done by using two contraceptives, like condoms and Depo-Provera, a hormone injection that prevents pregnancy and needs to be administered every three months.

Heys says of the 421 people, only eight were using two contraceptives and many others relied only on condoms. Heys says this is problematic because, while condoms are important for reducing HIV transmission, she found that when used alone, the condoms were often used incorrectly and,

therefore, not a highly effective method of contraception. Some of the interview subjects were not using any contraception at all.

Heys believes the root of the problem is a lack of knowledge about dual protection. She also says there are a lot of misconceptions.

"Some people thought condoms or oral contraceptives could cause cancer. They also had this idea that if you took pills, oral contraceptives, you wouldn't be able to work as you would be very weak and very tired." ■



Jennifer Heys in Uganda.

Public-health murals save lives in Uganda

Michael Davies-Venn

A deep affinity for the African continent, the need to give back and the desire to effect social change are what led Leslie Robinson to Uganda to work on her master's thesis. However, the University of Alberta visual communication design graduate student could have never anticipated that her decision would result in both saving and changing lives.

To test the theory of participatory design—a practice that puts end users at the core of the design process, allowing their views to form the main messages in a campaign—Robinson assembled 70 youths from communities throughout Uganda, divided them into four groups and worked with them creating murals that they painted in communities in Uganda's capital,

Kampala, and Kayunga, a rural city.

Robinson says that at the start of the project, it became clear that concerns about public-health issues and the need for HIV testing were foremost on the youngsters' minds, and that those concerns later formed the messages on the murals. She says the results have been humbling.

"More than 400 people allowed themselves to be tested for HIV/AIDS after the murals in one of the communities was completed," said Robinson. "These are people that never would have otherwise been tested."

"I did not imagine that would happen, but I'm quite impressed with the developments."

Robinson says people in most African countries where AIDS has been a menace do not normally get tested for the virus for fear of being

stigmatized. In fact, the boys in the group who lived in an area called "the rich man's slums" and worked on the AIDS murals would not call the virus by its name, Robinson says.

"They wouldn't outright say 'stop the spread of AIDS,' for example," Robinson said. "They instead addressed this notion of 'transactional love,' which they came up with."

It's similar to prostitution; it's the idea of giving gifts, such as use of someone's car or giving cell phones, in exchange for sexual relations. These issues relate to AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, but their way of bringing out the messages was specific to their local circumstances."

The murals are currently part of an ongoing exhibition, *Designing Public Health Messages for Youth, by Youth*, which runs through Dec. 5 in the U of A's Fine Arts Build-



Designing Public Health Messages for Youth, by Youth, the master's design thesis project by Leslie Robinson, is ondisplay until Dec. 5 in the FAB Gallery.

ing gallery. Robinson says that, as result of the project, which received support from the U of A's School of Public Health, the HIV/AIDS counselors are being asked to create similar murals for high schools in Uganda and that one of the other groups has organized themselves into a community group called Arts for Social Change.

"I did not realize the extent to which these youth would take on these projects and keep them going," Robinson said. "This shows the impact of this project on the communities on a different level, it goes much deeper as the knowledge and experiences gained have been embodied in the participants." ■

talks & events

Folio Talks and Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.events.ualberta.ca. Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

Until Dec. 24

Love Letters to Feminism. The Women's Studies Program is pleased to announce the opening of a new art installation in our exhibition space. Garden level, Assiniboia Hall.

Nov. 27 & 28

Has Foreign Aid Done More Harm Than Good In Africa? Over the past 40 years, more than \$1 trillion has been transferred from the west to Africa in form of foreign aid, yet, it appears to be that nothing is changing in Africa and more money is still needed to emancipate the continent. 6:30 p.m. 217-1f Telus Centre.

Nov. 27-29

Devonian Botanic Garden Crafters Christmas Sale. Crafters Christmas Sale featuring handmade gifts, candles, seasonal arrangements, crafts, evergreen boughs and more. Proceeds support special projects and programs at the Garden. Free admission. Sale times: Nov. 27 1-6 p.m., Nov. 28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Nov. 29, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Nov. 27

Donald Lopez: The Birth of the Buddha. Donald Lopez is 2009 distinguished visitor to the program in religious studies. He is also the Arthur E. Link distinguished university professor of Buddhist and Tibetan studies at the University of Michigan. 4 p.m., Humanities Centre, L-1 Humanities Centre.

You Can't Stop the Hip Hop - a lecture by Charity Marsh. Representation, Identification and Citizenship: The Politics of Hip Hop Culture in Northern Canada. 4 p.m., 2-7 Fine Arts Centre.

Nov. 28-Dec. 22

Forest Society Christmas Tree Sale. The Forest Society will be selling Christmas trees, Corbett Hall lot. Ten per cent of the proceeds donated to the campus United Way Campaign. Weekdays 3-9 p.m., weekends 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Corbett Fields.

Nov. 28

Family Event: Where do you play? Join us in the Enterprise Square Atrium for some games and activities! You'll be able to pop some popcorn with the parachute, become a pawn on a giant board game, create a beat, and enter a crab walk relay race before heading into the gallery to create your own 3-D playground. 1-4 p.m. Enterprise Square.

Nov. 29

Donald Lopez Town and Gown Lecture: The Search for Shangri-La. Everyone is welcome. Reception to follow. 2 p.m. Atrium, Enterprise Square.

Nov. 30

Donald Lopez: From Stone to Flesh: The European Encounter with the Buddha. 12:30-2 p.m. C014 Classroom Building, Augustana Campus.

Comparative analyses of functional evolution in voltage-gated potassium channels. Warren Gallin, Department of Biological Sciences, U of A, is presenting a seminar titled "Comparative analyses of functional evolution in voltage-gated potassium channels." 3 p.m. G-114 Biological Sciences.

Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry Inaugural Professorial Lectures. Philip Baker invites faculty, staff and members of the general public to attend the Inaugural Professorial Lectures. Presenters: professor

Kathryn Todd and professor Lisa Hornberger. Reception at 4:30 p.m. Lectures 5-6:30 p.m. Lectures are free and all are welcome. Allard Theatre, Katz Group Centre for Pharmacy and Health Research.

Dec. 1

What you Need to Know About Recruiting Students with Disabilities. This seminar is hosted by CAPS: Your U of A Career Centre. It is part of a seminar series for employers who are interested in learning more about recruitment-related topics. There is no fee to attend; we only ask that you pre-register by e-mailing laura.manuel@ualberta.ca. Noon-1 p.m. Enterprise Square.

E. Garner King Memorial Lectureship. This year's guest lecturer for the annual E. Garner King Lectureship is Chaviva Hosek, president and CEO of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. The title of her lecture is "Health as a Social Phenomenon." A reception will follow the lecture. 4 p.m. Bernard Snell Hall, University Hospital.

Dec. 2

Disabled Girlhoods, Embodiment and Bathrooms. Patricia McKeever presents Disabled Girlhoods, Embodiment and Bathrooms, based on a CIHR-funded project entitled "Schools, Homes and Neighborhoods: Disabled Children's Assessments." Presented by the Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta and Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. Noon-1 p.m. Bernard Snell Hall, University Hospital.

H1N1 and the role of pharmacy. Influenza, general vaccines (safety and prevention strategy), H1N1 vaccine and treatments (antivirals) and role of pharmacy in pandemics. Noon-1 p.m. 4069 Dent/Pharm Building.

Dec. 3

New Foundations: Building an inquiry-based information literacy agenda. The workshop will also introduce an instructional design approach based on Carol Kuhlthau's information search process model, which provides a conceptual framework for instruction that fosters students' information-to-knowledge journey. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Augustana Faith and Life Chapel Faith and Life Centre.

Last Day of Fall Classes Goodie Give Away. From 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., there will be free cookies and punch for approximately 3,000 students, staff and faculty. Everyone is welcome. This event is made possible by HUB Administration, HUB Merchants & Residence Services. The event will take place in the middle of HUB by the Mural and at the entrance of Rutherford Library.

AHFMR-Sponsored Seminar: Developing Novel Zebrafish Models to Investigate Neurological Diseases. Edward A. Burton, professor of neurology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, will deliver an AHFMR-sponsored seminar at the U of A Center for Prions & Protein Folding Diseases. 11 a.m.-noon. 204A, Seminar Room of the Prion Centre Environmental Engineering.

Seminar: Ecosystem-climate interactions: Impacts, feedback, mechanisms and predictions. Yiqi Luo, professor in the Department of Botany and Microbiology at University of Oklahoma, will present a seminar highlighting research activities and achievements using experimental, modeling, and data assimilation approaches. 11-noon, 133 Earth Sciences.

Moldova and Transnistria: Between Ukraine, Russia and the EU. CIUS Fall Lecture Series: Moldova and Transnistria: Between Ukraine, Russia and the EU. Presented by Eduard Baidaus, Department of

History and Classics, University of Alberta. 3 p.m. 227 Athabasca Hall.

Inside/OUT 2009/2010 Speakers' Series: Two-Spirited People: A Personal Journey. Dolan Badger, a support and outreach worker with HIV Edmonton, will explore a personal and often painful journey about growing up Aboriginal and two-spirited. In a frank discussion about growing up away from the reserve this lecture will focus on the power of two-spirit and how it saved his life. 5-6 p.m. 7-152 Education North Education Centre.

Dec. 4

Vibrio cholerae and its environmental predators: The role of the type

VI secretion system and one of its substrates. Stefan Pukatzki, Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, University of Alberta 3:30 p.m. M-145 Biological Sciences.

Dec. 5

Prayer and Mental Sanity. How do recent studies in nature and the brain help us with the traditional understandings of the purpose of prayer and its gifts as a spiritual discipline? Animated by Archbishop Lazar, abbot, Monastery of All Saints of North America and Tim Parker, professor, Augustana Campus, University of Alberta 1-3:30 p.m.

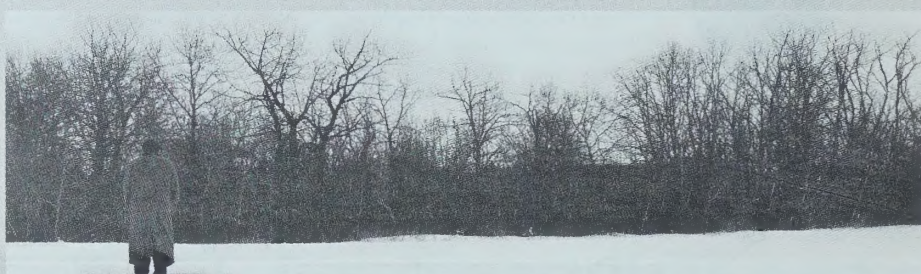
Dec. 7

St. Stephen's College Annual Christmas Open House. Come and celebrate the season. A time of refreshments, conversation and music. Music will be provided by harpist Lois Samis Lund. 4-6 p.m. St. Stephen's College.

Dec. 11, 16 & 18

Classic Fare Festive Luncheon. Classic Fare Catering is hosting their annual Festive Luncheon. Bring your colleagues for a traditional holiday buffet. Tickets are \$15.95 each. Choose from Dec. 11, 16 or 18. Noon-1:30 p.m. Maple Leaf Room Lister Centre.

Fine Arts Events



U of A Music graduate student, Viktoria Reiswich-Dapp, plays Schubert's *Winterreise* with singer Jihwan Cho on Dec. 5 at Convocation Hall.

Until Nov. 30

I've mostly been lit from behind. An exhibition of works by bachelor of fine arts and bachelor of design students in ART 440, Drawing and Intermedia. Sherri Chaba, instructor and curator. South Foyer Rutherford Library, North and South.

Until Dec. 5

Designing Public Health Messages for Youth, by Youth. Master's of design thesis project by Leslie Robinson. Regular gallery hours. Fine Arts Building gallery.

The Longing Focal. This exhibition by Mitch Mitchell is the final visual presentation for the master of fine arts in printmaking. Fine Arts Building gallery.

Nov. 28

Arditti Quartet, with Louise Bessette, piano. Two of the greatest names in new music join forces to present an exciting program of 21st century works. The prize-winning Canadian pianist Louise Bessette joins the Arditti Quartet in a piano quintet by Quebec composer Serge Arcuri. 8 p.m. Convocation Hall, Arts and Convocation Hall.

Nov. 29

University of Alberta Concert Band. University of Alberta Concert Band Wendy Grasdahl, Conductor Dan Sabo, Guest Conductor Wagner: Die Meistersinger (1845) (excerpts from the Opera) Elgar: As Torrents In Summer Juras: Three Folk Miniatures Bennett: Suite of Old American Dances Frescobaldi: Toccata Cable: Quebec Folk Fantasy Filmore: The Klaxon. 8 p.m. Arts and Convocation Hall

Nov. 30

Monday Noon Music. Chamber Music: Undergraduate and graduate student ensembles including art song, early music, contemporary and classical chamber

music. Noon in the Arts and Convocation Hall

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas. U of A Mixed Chorus and Faculty of Education Handbell Ringers, Robert de Frece, director; Marnie Giesbrecht and Joachim Segger, organists. All Seats: \$10 (plus service chg.) at the Winspear Box Office, 780-428-1414. A Benefit for the U of A Campus Food Bank. 7:30 p.m., Winspear Centre.

Dec. 1

Tongzhi in Love - Welcome to the Reel World Film Series. "Frog" Cui and his gay friends are torn between the lures of city life and the stern demands of Chinese tradition. 5 p.m., Telus Centre Auditorium 150.

Dec. 2

Free Art Workout Wednesdays! Make a Joyful Noise. Invoke your inner musician and join Marcus Fung and his array of sound makers. 12:10-12:55 p.m. Extension Gallery, Atrium Enterprise Square.

Emanuel Ax, piano. Winner of the first Arthur Rubenstein International Piano Competition in 1974, Emanuel Ax has reaped numerous awards and accolades throughout his illustrious career. The concert program features works by Chopin and Schumann. 8 p.m. Arts and Convocation Hall

Dec. 4-5

Handel's Messiah. U of A's Madrigal Singers and the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra presents Handel's Messiah. 7:30 p.m. Winspear Centre.

Dec. 4

Graduate Students Recital - Winterreise. Graduate Students Recital Jihwan Cho, bass baritone Viktoria Reiswich-

Dapp, piano Schubert: Die Winterreise. 8 p.m. Arts and Convocation Hall.

Dec. 5 & 6

Luminaria 2009. Thousands of candles light the paths of the Kurimoto Japanese Garden. Hot apple cider on hand and entertainment provided by the Edmonton Youth Choir. Runs from 5-9 p.m. \$10 adults, \$5 kids 7-12, children 6 and under free. Located in Parkland County, 5 kms north of Devon on Hwy 60. 780-987-3054 ext. 2223.

Dec. 6

Silent Night - Annual Christmas Concert. Music and Christmas carols from Central Europe. Our annual concert features local Central European choirs. Admission is free. Monetary donations to the Student Union Food Bank are greatly appreciated. 3-5 p.m. Arts and Convocation Hall.

Dec. 7

Contempo New Music Ensemble. Contempo New Music Ensemble New Works by student composers. 7 p.m., Arts and Convocation Hall.

Dec. 8

Graduate Composers Concert. New works by Colin Labadie and Daniel Brophy: Two pieces for organ and two for percussion Jacek Sobieraj: An electronic piece performers: Marnie Giesbrecht, organ Brian Jones & Brian Thurgood, percussion Andriy Talpash, conductor. 8 p.m., Arts and Convocation Hall.

Dec. 10

Faculty of Extension Fine Arts Open House. The evening will include student art exhibitions; residential interiors design displays; guest lecture; Spanish cultural demonstrations. Everyone is invited. 6:30-9:30 p.m. 2nd Floor Enterprise Square Studios Enterprise Square.

Studio Theatre does Shakespeare sassy

Ileiren Poon

The University of Alberta's Studio Theatre is shaking up Shakespeare's world with Ann-Marie MacDonald's *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*.

Opening Nov. 26 in the Timms Centre for the Arts, *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* follows the delusions of Shakespearean scholar Constance Ledbelly, played by Tatyana Rac, who is hot on the trail of a mysterious manuscript she believes to be the original source for *Othello* and *Romeo & Juliet*.

"She believes that both plays were originally comedies, but that Shakespeare took them from an unknown author and turned them into tragedies," said director Marianne Copithorne. "In the meantime, she's fallen in love with one of the professors at the university, who shuns her, and this causes her to have a nervous breakdown."

Constance is transported right into the Bard's texts and smack dab into the thick of the action.

"She finds herself in the worlds

of Cyprus, with Othello, Desdemona and Iago, and in Verona with Romeo, Juliet, and the gang. She enters and changes the fate of these two plays, so Desdemona doesn't get killed and neither does Mercutio," said Copithorne. Saving Mercutio puts a halt to the tragic chain of events that leads to Juliet's suicide.

By saving Juliet and Desdemona—played by Karyn Mott and Sarah Sharkey respectively—from their usual tragic ends, the gutsy heroine sets off a whole new series of gender-bending twists and turns.

MacDonald won a Governor General Award for *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* in 1988.

"She wrote this play early on in her career and she's a very out-there person; she's out as a feminist; she's out of the closet, she's outrageous as a writer," said Copithorne. "I think she wanted to explore certain themes by writing this comedy. By the time you get to Verona, everyone's changing gender and falling in love with anything in a shirt or a skirt, and I think she's trying to

explore the idea that it doesn't matter who you love; it's how you love, and [how one should] love for the right reasons."

In exploring that idea, MacDonald plays with Shakespearean themes and turns them upside down, said Copithorne, the artistic director of Edmonton's annual FreeWill Shakespeare Festival.

"You see the way that Shakespeare sets up the scenes and the characters, then you see the way [MacDonald] flips them on their head," she said. "For example, you often see Desdemona played as a hapless victim, and in Ann-Marie's version—in Constance's version—she's very much a warrior princess. It's the same with Romeo and Juliet; they're almost like the archetypal opposite of what Shakespeare intended."

All of this topsy-turvy, gender-bending messing about classic literature brings some light-hearted hilarity to the two famous tragedies, including witty dialogue and the occasional noogie.

The Studio Theatre cast also features bachelor of fine arts actors Darren Paul (Othello/Professor



Tatyana Rac, left, as Professor Constance Ledbelly, and Sarah Sharkey as Ramona, act out a scene in *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*.

Claude Night/Tybalt), Robert Markus (Romeo/Iago) and Andréa Jowsky (chorus).

Evening performances of *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* run Nov. 26–Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. A matinee performance is scheduled for Dec. 3 at 12:30 p.m. There is

no performance Nov. 29. Tickets are on sale now, available for \$10-20 at TIX on the Square, (780-420-1757) and online at www.tixonthesquare.ca. Tickets are also available at the Timms box office one hour before each performance. ■

classified ads

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780-433-3206. www.minkhasweaters.com.

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laurels

Sandipan Pramanik, professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has won the first annual Disruptive Technology Challenge sponsored by TRLabs. TRLabs creates innovative technologies and trains students to enhance ICT expertise and improve Canada's global competitiveness.

Mark Lewis, professor in the departments of mathematical and statistical sciences, and biological sciences, has received the Canadian Applied and Industrial Mathematics Society's Research Prize. The award has been established to recognize innovative and exceptional research contributions in an emerging area of applied or industrial mathematics.

Gavin Oudit, professor in the Department of Medicine, has won the Young Investigator Award from the Canadian Cardiovascular Society.

In the Nov. 13 issue of *Folio*, **Shaheed Merani** was referred to as a surgeon when he is in fact a medical student. Merani was took the Leaders of Tomorrow category at the ASTech Awards held Nov. 6 in Calgary. The joint MD/PhD student, works with the Edmonton protocol in diabetes research and has become a leader in medical education thanks to the publishing of a major medical textbook for medical students' licensing exams.

Gary Galante was awarded the E.L. Pope Award in Medicine by the Capital Region Medical Staff Association.

Jonathan White, who received the John Provan Outstanding Canadian Surgical Educator Award from the Canadian Undergraduate Surgery Education Committee in recognition of his outstanding contributions to undergraduate surgical education in Canada.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA AERO SAE HEAVY LIFT CLUB



The Aero SAE Heavy Lift Club is an engineering design club at the University of Alberta whose goal is to design and construct a radio-controlled model aircraft capable of lifting the maximum weight possible. Design constraints are set out Society of Automotive Engineers for their Aero Design competitions, held on an annual basis in the United States.

Involvement in the club and SAE competitions is voluntary and allows students to put their problem-solving skills to the test. Members see the entire life cycle of the aircraft production: initial idea conceptualization, solid modeling, creation of drawings, part manufacturing, assembly and testing. The process of designing and building the aircraft gives students an appreciation for the scale of real-life engineering design projects.

Through involvement with the club, students become well-rounded engineers since they have worked to develop, fabricate and operate an actual product. ■

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